

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) An earstem for eyeglasses used in a communication system comprising:

a temple portion,

a speaker support portion for supporting a speaker mount, the speaker support being adapted and configured so that the position of the speaker mount can be adjusted by a wearer along two axes to be over at least a portion of the wearer's concha, wherein the two axes are inclined with respect to each other and parallel to the wearer's external ear, and

an earpiece portion, wherein the joined temple, speaker support, and earpiece portions are adapted and configured to support the speaker mount away from a wearer's outer ear with a gap sufficient to permit the wearer to hear environmental sounds without significant obstruction.

29. (New) The earstem of claim 28 wherein the speaker support portion further comprises:

a "U"-shaped loop in the earstem, the "U"-shaped loop slidably retaining the speaker mount between the "legs" of the loop for motion along the axis of the loop,

wherein the "U"-shaped loop is inclined downward and rearward over a wearer's ear to permit motion of the speaker mount over at least a portion of the wearer's concha.

30. (New) The earstem of claim 29 wherein the speaker mount further comprises:

a rotatably mounted speaker with an axis of rotation eccentric with respect to the speaker mount,

wherein rotation of the rotatably mounted speaker causes the speaker to move in an approximately vertical direction.

31. (New) The earstem of claim 30 wherein the speaker is arranged and positioned over the intertragic notch of the wearer's ear.

32. (New) The earstem of claim 28 wherein the speaker support portion comprises:
a linear member on which the speaker mount is slidably retained for motion along the linear member,

wherein the linear member projects downward and rearward from the earstem to over a wearer's ear to permit motion of the speaker mount over at least a portion of the wearer's concha.

33. (New) The earstem of claim 28 further comprising a microphone mount.

34. (New) The earstem of claim 33 wherein the microphone mount is carried by the temporal portion.

35. (New) The earstem of claim 33 wherein the microphone mount comprises:
a cavity within the earstem for retaining a microphone, and
a first port inclined downward and forward for permitting entry of a wearer's voice into the cavity.

36. (New) The earstem of claim 35 wherein the microphone mount further comprises:

a second port inclined upward and rearward for permitting entry of environmental sounds into the cavity, and
a gradient microphone retained within the cavity.

37. (New) An eyeglasses communication system comprising:

eyeglasses comprising at least one earstem of claim 28, and a speaker and a microphone carried by the earstem,

a wearer unit operably coupled to the speaker and the microphone.

38. (New) The system of claim 37 wherein the wearer unit comprises a personal digital assistant.

39. (New) The system of claim 37 wherein the wearer unit comprises a cellular telephone.

40. (New) The system of claim 37 wherein the wearer unit comprises a personal wireless unit for locally and wirelessly relaying signals to and from the speaker and microphone.

41. (New) An eyeglasses local communication system comprising:

a plurality of eyeglasses, each of the eyeglasses comprising at least one earstem of claim 28, and a speaker and a microphone carried by the earstem,

a plurality of wireless wearer units, each wireless wearer unit operably coupled to the speaker and microphone associated with one of the eyeglasses associated and relaying locally and wirelessly signals to and from the coupled speaker and microphone, and

at least one base station wirelessly and operably coupled to the plurality of wireless wearer units.

42. (New) The system of claim 41 wherein the base station further comprises:

an interface to an equipment, and

a programmable device executing one or more processes that translates between voice signals exchanged with at least one of the eyeglasses and equipment signals exchanged with an equipment through the equipment interface, wherein information can be exchanged between a wearer of the eyeglasses and an interfaced equipment.

43. (New) The system of claim 41 wherein the base station further comprises:

a programmable device executing one or more processes that route voice signals between at least two of the eyeglasses so that wearers of the eyeglasses can communicate with each other.

44. (New) The system of claim 41 wherein communication system is local to a patient care environment.

45. (New) The system of claim 44 wherein the patient care environment comprises one or more operating rooms.